

## AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Montreal, Dec. 28.—The annual meeting of the Geological Society of America was held here today, and the following officers were elected: President, John J. Stevenson, New York; first vice president, B. K. Emerson, Amherst, Mass.; secretary, H. T. Fairchild, Rochester, New York; treasurer, J. C. White, Morgantown, W. Va.; editor, J. T. Brown, Washington, D. C.; librarian, W. H. Cushing, Cleveland.

At the afternoon session John Mason Clarke of Albany, N. Y., Assistant State Geologist and Paleontologist, Geo. L. Collie, professor of geology in Beloit college, Beloit, Wis., and J. E. Talmage, professor of geology in the University of Utah at Salt Lake City, were elected fellows of the society.

City of Mexico, Dec. 28.—A gentleman from Cuba who has been in Manzanillo, in one of the so-called pacifico provinces, says that in reality the war has not begun there, for the country has been abandoned to insurgents, who have built towns which are supplied with abundant provisions from the neighboring states, and established by the insurgents, who even manufacture gunpowder and have arms factories, tanneries and shoe factories so they can supply their troops with the most indispensable articles.

Spanish authority is not recognized, and the inhabitants are comfortably settled under the authority of the Cuban republic. Occasionally the Spanish convoys pass over the high roads, but the insurgents go out and meet them and fight on the roads, the patriots always taking the offensive. The poorer Spanish soldiers are in such a condition that much sympathy is aroused, they being mostly boys, thin and pale, and complaining of the wretched humiliation of their scanty rations of not receiving any pay for months.

Only very sick soldiers are admitted to the Spanish hospitals, and others who are really ill are compelled to sleep in courtyards exposed to the weather. Their condition is pitiful in the extreme, arousing sympathy among the insurgents, who know that these mere lads have been conscripted and sent to fight them under conditions which no veteran troops would stand without mutiny.

The Cuban republic, he says, is a fact, and over a considerable part of the island its authority is felt.

South Bend, Ind., Dec. 28.—The Very Rev. William Corbin of Notre Dame, head of the Order of the Holy Cross in America, died this afternoon. He was the chaplain of the famous Irish brigade. His death took place at Notre Dame university. The funeral will be held Friday morning in the chapel of the university of which he was formerly president. Father Corbin was one of the seven chaplains who left their classes in the university for the Union army. He was a commander of the recently organized G. A. R. post composed of the priests and brothers at Notre Dame.

New Haven, Conn., Dec. 28.—Capt. George L. Kelsey of the schooner Wallace Ward, which has just arrived here from Barcelona, Spain, insists that the American consul at that port fears mob violence, and is unable to keep the American flag flying from Uncle Sam's vessels. He put into port there September 16th, remaining three days. At first the Stars and Stripes floated proudly from the masthead, but the Spanish loiterers were attracted by it and gathered by the side of the vessel, threatening violence.

The American consul heard a rumor that the crowd proposed burning the

vessels, and he sent word to Capt. Kelsey to haul down the flag. Capt. Kelsey defied the Spaniards, but the next day the consul repeated his advice, and Capt. Kelsey was reluctantly persuaded to store the Stars and Stripes below decks during the remainder of his stay.

Minter City, Miss., Dec. 28.—Joseph Hopkins, the negro who murdered two white farmers on Christmas day at Glendora, a small inland town near this place, was captured by a posse at daylight this morning on the James plantation, near Swan lake.

Hopkins fought like a demon before being taken into custody, and when arrested it was found that the negro had been shot in several places. He was not fatally injured, however, and was at once taken to the scene of his terrible crime.

Hopkins confessed his guilt and did not plead for mercy, but begged his captors to make quick work of him, and little time was lost in carrying out the request. A rope was placed about the negro's neck and he was hanged to a limb of a tree. The body was then riddled with bullets and left hanging.

Denver, Colo., Dec. 29.—The owners of some of the undeveloped asphaltum beds on the borders of the Uncompaghe Indian reservation residing in this city are negotiating with the Title Guaranty & Trust company of Chicago with a view to securing money to develop the deposits.

According to the seventeenth annual report of the United States geological survey, the area in which gilsonite occurs in the Uncompaghe Indian reservation extends for miles over the state line into Colorado. There are seven distinct veins which vary from one to eighteen feet in thickness and it is estimated that their total contents will amount to 23,744,528 tons.

The same report quotes the price of this material in Chicago at from \$40 to \$50 per ton gross value, which would make the estimated contents of the seven veins worth over \$1,000,000,000.

Dawson City, N. W. T., Nov. 25, via Seattle, Dec. 29.—The miners here have commissioned three men to go immediately to Ottawa and present a petition to the Canadian authorities reciting the reasons why the new mining laws are unjustly severe. The petition as finally adopted is the result of several conferences of committees composed of the most intelligent citizens and aliens of the Klondike, and the three delegates named in it are the persons elected by a committee of ten.

Decatur, Ills., Dec. 29.—The accommodation train on the Wabash railway, which meets No. 16 at Palos, was five minutes late last evening. When all the cars except the rear coach had made the siding, No. 16 came along and struck the rear coach. The engine of No. 16 and the rear coach of the accommodation fortunately only left the track. There were quite a number of passengers in the coach, but none were seriously injured. Several received cuts and bruises and among them was State Senator John Humphrey, who was slightly cut on the head. After a delay of nearly an hour, the trains were able to proceed on their way.

Senator Humphrey is the author of the famous Humphrey bill, the street car franchise extension bill, which was defeated in the legislature last winter after an exciting contest.

Chicago, Dec. 29.—An engine and caboose on the Chicago, Hammond & Western railroad, left the tracks while crossing the bridge over Salt creek, two miles north of La Grange last night,

and plunged into eight feet of water. Six men were injured. They are: Engineer William Draper, Chicago, hip crushed and ankle injured; Fireman John Walburn, Hammond, internal injuries and scalp wounds; Conductor M. J. Gibson, La Grange, chest crushed and burned; Brakeman G. Sconant, Chicago, back injured; Brakeman Charles Quesac, Chicago, bruised and burned; Foreman Robert H. La Grange, hip crushed and slight burns. The engineer and fireman both jumped when the engine left the rails, and were injured by falling on the ice.

The accident is supposed to have been caused by spreading of the rails.

New York, Dec. 29.—The postal savings bank idea is not a popular one in New York banking circles. A canvass of presidents of prominent institutions developed that fact clearly. At the same time very few presidents were willing to express opinions for publication. All practically agreed with President E. S. Mason, of the Bank of New York, in the statement that there are already so many banks in existence that rates for money have been cut to a point when there is little profit in banking.

F. D. Tappen, president of the Galatin National bank, thought that possibly in thinly populated districts postal savings banks might prove beneficial to people, but he was confident that the residents of large towns and cities had all the banking accommodation they desired.

Oliver S. Carter, of the Bank of the Republic, felt that the time had not come to discuss the proposition. Mr. Dumont Clark, president of the American Exchange National bank, agreed with Mr. Carter.

J. Edward Simmons, president of the Fourth National, was also of the same opinion and declined to discuss the proposition because he had not given it sufficient thought.

Henry W. Cannon, president of the Chase National bank, was plainly opposed to postal savings banks and did not hesitate to say so.

"Postal savings banks," he said, "have been successful in other countries for the reason that the countries have large public debts which are increasing from year to year. Under such conditions the money deposited by the people in the postal banks can be advantageously used by the governments. In England and France such deposits really constitute a portion of the public debts of those countries."

"In this country the people hold the opinion that the public debt should not be increased, but on the contrary should be reduced as rapidly as possible, and therefore, it does not seem practicable to my mind for the government to receive the money of the people and invest the same in securities. It is more than likely were postal savings banks established in this country, that the government would very soon have a large surplus of funds on hand on which it would be compelled to pay interest and the business would be conducted on the part of the government at a loss."

"In my opinion, should postal savings banks be established in the United States, their deposits should only be used by the general government in the same manner as in other countries."

Denver, Colo., Dec. 29.—The books of the United States branch mint for the year 1897 are now closed. The deposits of gold are the largest ever received. The total will slightly exceed \$12,200,000, and a conservative estimate made by the mint officials places the entire output of Colorado at \$22,000,000 in round figures.

It is claimed here that Colorado will